

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, comprising:

receiving a request to send an electronic mail message with a file attachment to at least one intended recipient;

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comparing a characteristic of said at least one intended recipient with a maximum recipient limit for said file attachment; and

responsive to said characteristic of said at least one intended recipient exceeding said maximum recipient limit for said file attachment, requesting a sender authorization prior to sending said electronic mail message, such that if a virus is attempting to self-propagate by sending said electronic mail message said attempt is mitigated.

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2. The method according to claim 1 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, further comprising:

comparing said characteristic of said at least one intended recipient with a maximum

5 recipient limit for said electronic mail message; and

responsive to said characteristic of said at least one intended recipient exceeding said maximum number of recipients for said electronic mail message, requesting a sender authorization prior to sending said electronic mail message.

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3. The method according to claim 1 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein receiving a request to send an electronic mail message with a file attachment further comprises:

15 detecting a file embedded within said electronic mail message as a file attachment.

4. The method according to claim 1 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein comparing said characteristic of said at least one intended recipient with a maximum recipient limit further comprises:

5 comparing at least one address for said at least one intended recipient with an address book of recipients;

calculating a number of said at least one address of said at least one intended recipient matching addresses within said address book of recipients; and

10 determining whether a number of said matching addresses exceeds a maximum limit of addresses within said address book of recipients.

5. The method according to claim 1 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, 15 wherein comparing said characteristic of said at least one intended recipient with a maximum recipient limit further comprises:

comparing a number of said at least one intended recipient with a maximum recipient limit for a type of said file attachment.

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6. The method according to claim 1 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein requesting a sender authorization prior to sending said electronic mail message further comprises:

5 requesting at least one of an entry of a password as authorization and a manual sender input.

7. The method according to claim 1 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, further comprising:

10 receiving said maximum recipient limit from at least one of a network administrator and a user.

8. The method according to claim 1 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses,
15 further comprising:

responsive to receiving a denial of said sender authorization, alerting a network administrator that said electronic mail message was blocked.

9. A system for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, comprising:

a computing system communicatively connected to a network;

5 said computing system further comprising:

means for receiving a request to send an electronic mail message with a file
attachment to at least one intended recipient;

10 means for comparing a characteristic of said at least one intended recipient with a
maximum recipient limit for said file attachment; and

means for requesting a sender authorization prior to sending said electronic mail
message, responsive to said characteristic of said at least one intended recipient exceeding
15 said maximum recipient limit for said file attachment.

10. The system according to claim 9 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, said computing system further comprising:

means for comparing said characteristic of said at least one intended recipient with a
5 maximum recipient limit for said electronic mail message; and

means for requesting a sender authorization prior to sending said electronic mail message, responsive to said characteristic of said at least one intended recipient exceeding said maximum number of recipients for said electronic mail message.

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11. The system according to claim 9 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein said means for receiving a request to send an electronic mail message with a file attachment further comprises:

15 means for detecting a file embedded within said electronic mail message as a file attachment.

12. The system according to claim 9 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein said means for comparing said characteristic of said at least one intended recipient with a maximum recipient limit further comprises:

5 means for comparing at least one address for said at least one intended recipient with an address book of recipients;

means for calculating a number of said at least one address of said at least one intended recipient matching addresses within said address book of recipients; and

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means for determining whether a number of said matching addresses exceeds a maximum limit of addresses within said address book of recipients.

13. The system according to claim 9 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses,

15 wherein said means for comparing said characteristic of said at least one intended recipient with a maximum recipient limit further comprises:

means for comparing a number of said at least one intended recipient with a maximum recipient limit for a type of said file attachment.

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14. The system according to claim 9 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein said means for requesting a sender authorization prior to sending said electronic mail message further comprises:

5 means for requesting at least one of an entry of a password as authorization and a manual sender input.

15. The system according to claim 9 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, further comprising:

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means for receiving said maximum recipient limit from at least one of a network administrator and a user.

16. The system according to claim 9 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses,

15 further comprising:

means responsive to receiving a denial of said sender authorization, for alerting a network administrator that said electronic mail message was blocked.

17. A computer program product for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, comprising:

a recording medium;

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means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a request to send an electronic mail message with a file attachment to at least one intended recipient;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for comparing a characteristic of said at least
10 one intended recipient with a maximum recipient limit for said file attachment; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for requesting a sender authorization prior to sending said electronic mail message, responsive to said characteristic of said at least one intended recipient exceeding said maximum recipient limit for said file attachment.

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18. The computer program product according to claim 17 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for comparing said characteristic of said at
5 least one intended recipient with a maximum recipient limit for said electronic mail message; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for requesting a sender authorization prior to
sending said electronic mail message, responsive to said characteristic of said at least one
intended recipient exceeding said maximum number of recipients for said electronic mail
10 message.

19. The computer program product according to claim 17 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein said means for receiving a request to send an electronic mail message with a file attachment further comprises:

15 means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting a file embedded within said electronic mail message as a file attachment.

20. The computer program product according to claim 17 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein said means for comparing said characteristic of said at least one intended recipient with a maximum recipient limit further comprises:

5 means, recorded on said recording medium, for comparing at least one address for said at least one intended recipient with an address book of recipients;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for calculating a number of said at least one address of said at least one intended recipient matching addresses within said address book of
10 recipients; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for determining whether a number of said matching addresses exceeds a maximum limit of addresses within said address book of recipients.

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21. The computer program product according to claim 17 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein said means for comparing said at least one intended recipient with a maximum recipient limit further comprises:

5 means, recorded on said recording medium, for comparing said at least one intended recipient with a maximum recipient limit for a type of said file attachment.

22. The computer program product according to claim 17 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein said means for requesting a sender authorization prior to sending
10 said electronic mail message further comprises:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for requesting at least one of an entry of a password as authorization and a manual sender input.

15 23. The computer program product according to claim 17 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving said maximum recipient limit from at least one of a network administrator and a user.

24. The computer program product according to claim 17 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for alerting a network administrator that said
5 electronic mail message was blocked, responsive to receiving a denial of said sender
authorization.